



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-1147



CASE NO. CR # 21-04 (DOE# 21-02) NOMINATION TO COUNTY REGISTER STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: Henry Brandenburg House
9057 Myersville Road, Myersville

Applicant: Eric S. Winnette and Anthony S. Moscato, Jr.

Public Hearing for consideration of placing the property located at 9057 Myersville Road, Henry Brandenburg House, on the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Eric Scott Winnette and Anthony S. Moscato, Jr., property owners of record.

The public hearing for the designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 7:00 p.m., or thereafter, on August 4, 2021.



DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under survey number F-4-155 and was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission determined the property eligible for listing to the County Register at their March 3, 2021 meeting (DOE # 21-02). The property contains the historic house, a smoke house, spring and wash house, bake oven/shed, and non-contributing chicken coop and encompasses nearly 3.4 acres.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

The applicant submitted a completed County Register nomination form and the recently approved National Register nomination form which includes a written significance statement, map, and photographs.

SITE VISITS

Site visit dates were scheduled prior to the March 3rd determination of eligibility (DOE) hearing. These visits were scheduled on February 19, 1–4 p.m., February 20, 10 - 1 p.m., February 26, 1-4 p.m., and February 27, 10 – 1 p.m. No exterior changes have occurred at the subject property since the DOE hearing. Commissioners who were not able to attend any of these dates are urged to familiarize themselves with the exterior on their own time from the public right-of-way.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The architectural and historical significance of the Henry Brandenburg House is provided in the National Register documentation. The Henry Brandenburg House was nominated as an example of a farmhouse displaying architectural features associated with vernacular rural dwellings in Frederick County from the 1830's. The Summary Statement of Significance identifies the property's ability to represent farmhouse construction of the second quarter of the nineteenth century in Frederick County. It embodies characteristics of type, period, and method of construction that were popular in mid-Maryland during the second quarter of the nineteenth century and of the Maryland Piedmont farmhouse. Additionally, the Henry Brandenburg property represents the farming heritage that existed in western Frederick County during the 19th century. Therefore, based on the information provided, the history and the architecture represented at the property would make the property eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1D) and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

The Henry Brandenburg House was built by Henry Brandenburg circa 1833-1848 with a rear ell addition added circa 1860. In 1833, Henry and his brother David divided the land that they inherited from their father. Henry received the eastern portion of the land, approximately 90 acres, and subsequently built the brick house and associated outbuildings. Henry and his son Eli are listed in the 1850 census as farmers. Following the death of Henry in 1869 and a few months later his wife, the property passed to Eli who retained the property until his death in 1911. From there the property was sold out of the Brandenburg family. It was first subdivided into 15 acres in 1973 and then into its current subdivision of 3.3 acres in 2004.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

The property would be eligible for listing under this category for meeting criteria 6B(1D) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- 6B(1D): *The property exemplifies cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the county and its communities.*

The history of the Henry Brandenburg property represents typical Middletown Valley farming heritage. The National Register nomination states that Henry's grandfather Willem Brandenburg arrived in Philadelphia from Berlin, Germany in 1752 and had settled in the Middletown Valley by 1763. German migration into Frederick County was encouraged by the attractive offer of land in Virginia. Many immigrants made their way through the county via the Monocacy Road. Lord Baltimore, also wanting to encourage settlement in the western portion of the colony, offered alluring settlement offers too. According to Grace Tracey and John Dern's book, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy*, Frederick County appealed to German settlers because they tended to favor sites that resembled their homeland of Germany which included rolling topography and well-watered soils. Additionally, they selected "a few acres which they could clear and farm themselves."¹ The Brandenburg's illustrate this by settling in the Middletown Valley, an area with hilly topography and good farming soil, and choosing smaller land holdings. Henry further exemplifies this on his own farm by keeping his property a manageable size for him and his family to farm. According to the National Register nomination, he is listed in the 1830 Federal census as having one male and one female slave over 55, suggesting he continued to primarily use free labor on his farm.

Additionally, the property illustrates a typical rural farm with a moderately sized farmhouse and domestic outbuildings that retain a high level of integrity. The modest sized farmhouse further exemplifies the economic standing of rural farmers in the 1800s.

¹ Grace L. Tracey and John Philip Dern, *Pioneers of Old Monocacy* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002): 131.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is also eligible under this category by meeting criteria 6B(2A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*

The Henry Brandenburg property is a good example of a 19th century rural farmstead with associated domestic outbuildings. According to the National Register nomination, the farmhouse represents a Maryland Piedmont farmhouse characterized by its symmetrical three-bay Flemish bond façade, two-story height, and side gabled roof with end chimneys. Additionally, the farmhouse is located over a high banked cellar and has a rear ell addition added circa 1860, both features typical of this style. Together the farmhouse, smokehouse, spring and wash house, and bake oven/shed illustrate distinctive characteristics of a type and period of construction common to rural Mid-Maryland.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Henry Brandenburg House to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1D) and 6B(2A) as described in Chapter 1-23-6B of the County Code.